USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service

Indiana Crop & Weather Report

Released: May 23, 2011
Vol. 61, WC052311

USDA, NASS, Indiana Field Office
1435 Win Hentschel Blvd.
Suite 110
West Lafayette, IN 47906-4151
(765) 494-8371
nass-in@nass.usda.gov

CROP REPORT FOR WEEK ENDING MAY 22

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY

Planting of both corn and soybeans progressed at a rapid pace in many western and central counties during the week, according to the Indiana Field Office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. However, continuing rain showers and flooded river bottoms have caused further delays in some eastern and southern counties forcing some farmers to consider signing up for preventive plantings. Some hay has been cut, but it has been challenging for farmers to finish baling before more rain arrives. Some winter wheat is showing signs of stress due to excess moisture.

FIELD CROPS REPORT

There were 3.0 **days suitable for field work**. Forty-nine percent of the intended **corn** acreage has been **planted** compared with 88 percent last year and 76 percent for the 5-year average. By area, 57 percent of the crop has been planted in the north, 48 percent in the central region and 35 percent in the south. Twenty percent of the corn acreage has **emerged** compared with 78 percent last year and 54 percent for the 5-year average. Seventeen percent of the intended **soybean** acreage has been **planted** compared with 49 percent last year and 43 percent for the 5-year average. Three percent of the soybean acreage has **emerged** compared with 32 percent last year and 18 percent for the 5-year average.

Ninety-six percent of the **winter wheat** acreage is **jointed** compared with 99 percent for both last year and the 5-year average. Forty-six percent of the winter wheat acreage has **headed** compared with 77 percent last year and 66 percent for the 5-year average. **Winter wheat condition** is rated 59 percent good to excellent compared with 70 percent last year at this time.

LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE REPORT

Pasture condition is rated 60 percent good to excellent compared with 79 percent last year. Livestock remain in mostly good condition with minimal stress being reported due to muddy pasture and feedlot conditions.

CROP PROGRESS

Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Year Avg.
	Percent			
Corn Planted	49	29	88	76
Corn Emerged	20	4	78	54
Soybeans Planted	17	6	49	43
Soybeans Emerged	3	NA	32	18
Winter Wheat Jointed	96	87	99	99
Winter Wheat Headed	46	25	77	66

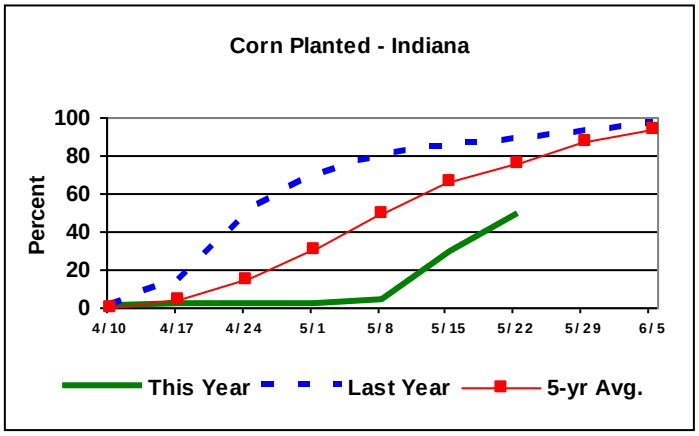
CROP CONDITION

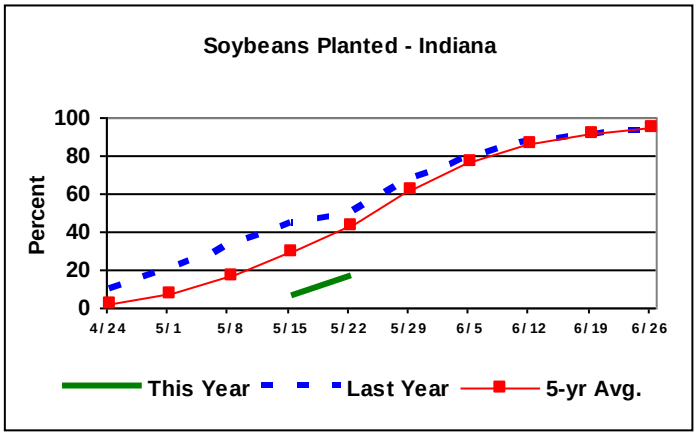
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excel-lent
	Percent				
Winter Wheat	3	8	30	47	12
Pasture	3	8	29	46	14

SOIL MOISTURE & DAYS SUITABLE FOR FIELDWORK

Soil Moisture	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
	Percent		
Topsoil			
Very Short	0	0	0
Short	1	0	0
Adequate	52	49	46
Surplus	47	51	54
Subsoil			
Very Short	0	0	0
Short	1	1	1
Adequate	54	50	63
Surplus	45	49	36
Days Suitable	3.0	3.8	1.1

CONTACT INFORMATION
--Greg Preston, Director
--Andy Higgins, Agricultural Statistician
E-mail Address: nass-in@nass.usda.gov
http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Indiana/





Other Agricultural Comments And News

Update: "Safe" Hybrid Maturities for Delayed Corn Planting in Indiana

Written by R.L. (Bob) Nielsen, Agronomy Dept., Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN 47907-2054.

The 2011 planting season continues to drag on slowly across Indiana with only 29% of the state's corn acres estimated to have been planted by May 15 (USDA-NASS, 16 May 2011). One of the biggest agronomic concerns with severely delayed planting is the risk of the crop not reaching physiological maturity before a killing fall freeze and the yield losses that could result. An economic concern with delayed planting is the risk of high grain moistures at harvest and the resulting costs incurred by drying the grain or price discounts by buyers.

The tables that accompany this article list "safe" relative hybrid maturities for corn planted from May 20 to June 10 based on their heat unit requirements (adjusted for planting date) and anticipated "normal" accumulation of heat units between planting and an average date (50% probability) of a killing fall freeze. Because GDD accumulations are generally less and "usual" fall frosts occur earlier in the northern and eastcentral areas of Indiana, delayed planting forces hybrid maturity changes earlier than other areas of the state. However, even for those areas of Indiana, serious departures from "typical" hybrid maturities need not be considered until later in May.

The maturities listed in **Table 1** are those that should reach physiological maturity at least by the week when a killing fall freeze occurs, while **Table 2** lists hybrid maturities that should mature at least one week PRIOR to a killing fall freeze. When making a decision to plant hybrid maturities that are unusually early for your area of the state, make the effort to identify hybrids with good disease resistance traits.

Recognize that while the hybrid maturities listed in either table should safely mature by their respective dates, severely delayed plantings will likely mature at a later time in the fall when further grain drying in the field typically occurs at a proverbial snail's pace. Thus, grain moisture at harvest for delayed plantings may be unacceptably high in terms of both the ease of harvest and the costs of artificially drying the grain.

Table 1. Approx. "safe" relative hybrid maturities for late planting dates in Indiana with the objective that physiological maturity occurs at least by the week of the expected fall frost date.

Crop Rpt District	"Typical" CRM	Expected fall frost date	Planting date... 20-May	30-May	10-Jun
			Approx. "safe" relative maturity		
NW	109	6-Oct	111	109	105
NC	109	6-Oct	111	109	104
NE	109	6-Oct	109	106	103
WC	112	13-Oct	118+	118	114
C	112	13-Oct	118+	116	111
EC	109	6-Oct	112	109	105
SW	116	20-Oct	118+	118+	118+
SC	113	13-Oct	118+	118+	118
SE	113	13-Oct	118+	118+	118+
		50 pct fall frost risk date			

Table 2. Approx. "safe" relative hybrid maturities for late planting dates in Indiana with the objective that physiological maturity occurs at least one week before the expected fall frost date.

Crop Rpt District	"Typical" CRM	Expected fall frost date	Planting date... 20-May	30-May	10-Jun
			Approx. "safe" relative maturity		
NW	109	6-Oct	109	106	102
NC	109	6-Oct	109	106	102
NE	109	6-Oct	106	104	100
WC	112	13-Oct	118+	116	111
C	112	13-Oct	117	114	109
EC	109	6-Oct	109	106	102
SW	116	20-Oct	118+	118+	118+
SC	113	13-Oct	118+	118+	115
SE	113	13-Oct	118+	118+	116
		50 pct fall frost risk date			

The Crop Reporting Districts are those defined by the National Ag. Statistics Service, USDA, for Indiana. The acronym "CRM" refers to Comparative Relative Maturity as defined by Pioneer Hi-Bred.

(continued on page 4)

Weather Information Table

Week Ending Sunday, May 22, 2011

Station	Past Week Weather Summary Data							Accumulation				
								April 1, 2011 through May 22, 2011				
	Air Temperature				Precip.		Avg 4 in Soil	Precipitation			GDD Base 50°F	
	Hi	Lo	Avg	DFN	Total	Days	Temp	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN
Northwest (1)												
Chalmers_5W	80	38	56	-8	0.27	2		8.94	+2.50	26	300	-58
Francesville	79	38	56	-7	0.33	5		9.08	+2.95	28	267	-41
Valparaiso_AP_I	76	40	56	-6	0.24	3		6.28	-0.38	24	293	+5
Wanatah	76	35	54	-6	0.79	5	58	10.58	+4.21	34	228	-19
Winamac	77	40	56	-6	0.40	5		10.36	+4.23	33	295	-13
North Central (2)												
Plymouth	78	39	56	-7	0.44	4		10.77	+4.23	29	257	-68
South_Bend	77	37	57	-4	0.38	4		10.84	+4.78	29	299	+29
Young_America	78	38	57	-6	0.18	2		8.83	+2.72	25	304	+2
Northeast (3)												
Fort_Wayne	79	41	59	-3	0.32	5		7.62	+1.82	35	343	+58
Kendallville	78	40	57	-4	0.75	5		10.30	+4.40	40	256	-16
West Central (4)												
Greencastle	78	40	56	-9	0.17	2		14.32	+7.22	26	350	-46
Perrysville	82	37	57	-6	0.28	2	61	9.70	+2.97	25	375	+31
Spencer_Ag	80	44	58	-6	0.26	2		14.48	+7.01	27	399	+50
Terre_Haute_AFB	80	42	59	-5	0.07	2		14.85	+7.71	28	473	+79
W_Lafayette_6NW	81	38	57	-6	0.35	2	57	9.33	+2.81	26	347	+39
Central (5)												
Eagle_Creek_AP	79	43	59	-5	0.35	4		10.75	+4.19	30	460	+77
Greenfield	79	37	56	-8	0.45	3		16.27	+9.11	36	372	+30
Indianapolis_AP	80	43	59	-5	0.36	4		10.57	+4.01	29	477	+94
Indianapolis_SE	79	42	57	-8	0.36	4		13.59	+6.62	30	352	-12
Tipton_Ag	79	41	57	-5	0.44	4	62	11.77	+5.13	32	322	+47
East Central (6)												
Farmland	80	42	56	-5	0.54	4	62	10.25	+4.04	35	304	+39
New_Castle	78	41	55	-7	0.46	4		18.05	+10.82	29	325	+52
Southwest (7)												
Evansville	84	44	62	-5	0.12	2		17.24	+9.78	25	638	+116
Freelandville	82	45	60	-5	0.13	2		15.66	+8.15	26	500	+81
Shoals_8S	85	45	59	-6	0.21	1		17.46	+9.57	21	454	+48
Stendal	84	43	60	-6	0.19	2		20.85	+12.70	25	559	+94
Vincennes_5NE	85	45	61	-4	0.07	1	58	15.53	+8.02	21	513	+94
South Central (8)												
Leavenworth	84	47	59	-6	0.59	5		19.39	+11.33	28	524	+111
Oolitic	82	46	59	-5	0.39	4	59	16.93	+9.48	29	416	+50
Tell_City	82	47	61	-6	0.20	2		18.22	+9.94	25	572	+91
Southeast (9)												
Brookville	82	43	57	-6	0.64	5		16.67	+9.47	30	408	+94
Greensburg	83	44	58	-5	0.56	3		16.57	+9.03	28	442	+87
Seymour	83	44	57	-7	0.44	4		18.13	+10.95	26	413	+34

DFN = Departure From Normal.
GDD = Growing Degree Days.
Precipitation (Rainfall or melted snow/ice) in inches.
Precipitation Days = Days with precip of .01 inch or more.
Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

For more weather information, visit www.awis.com or call 1-888-798-9955.

Farmers can mitigate this aggravation somewhat by planting even earlier maturity hybrids, but recognize that there may not be as great of a difference in grain moisture content as you think. Typically, a one "day" difference in relative maturity rating equals 0.5 percentage point difference in grain moisture content at harvest (Nielsen, 2009). That means there will only be about 2 points difference between, say, a 106-day hybrid and a 110-day hybrid at harvest.

The potential dollar gain from switching from corn to soybean as planting is further delayed is obviously an important consideration for farmers, but one that is difficult to estimate because of the many and varied agronomic and economic assumptions that influence that calculation. Among the challenging assumptions is the expected yield from delayed planting of the corn crop (Nielsen, 2011).

However, if you believe you have good economic estimates to plug into the calculations, then consider an Excel® spreadsheet tool available from the University of Illinois (Schnitkey & Batts, 2011) that will estimate the dollar gain or loss by switching from corn to soybean as planting delayed. This handy Excel spreadsheet offers some assistance in making an economic decision whether to switch from corn to soybean with delayed planting. However, recognize that your choice of yield, grain price, and production costs are critically important to whether the predicted economic results will be close to accurate. My advice: Do not simply use the spreadsheet's default values, but thoughtfully input your own values. Also, recognize you are limited to selecting geographic areas only within Illinois, so non-Illini farmers should exercise caution with the use of this tool.

Related References

Nielsen, Bob. 2002 (rev). Estimating Yield and Dollar Returns From Corn Replanting. Purdue Univ. Cooperative Extension Service publication AY-264-W. Online at http://www.agry.purdue.edu/ext/pubs/AY-264-W.pdf. [URL accessed Apr 2011].

Nielsen, R.L. (Bob). 2009. Interpreting Corn Hybrid Maturity Ratings. Corny News Network, Purdue Univ. [online] http://www.kingcorn.org/news/timeless/HybridMaturity.html [URL accessed Apr 2011].

Nielsen, R.L. (Bob). 2011. Planting Date is Important, But... Corny News Network, Purdue Univ. [online] http://www.kingcorn.org/news/timeless/PltDateCornYld.html [URL accessed May 2011].

Nielsen, R.L. (Bob) and Peter Thomison. 2003. Delayed Planting & Hybrid Maturity Decisions. Purdue Univ. Cooperative Extension Publication AY-312-W. [On-line]. Available at http://www.agry.purdue.edu/ext/pubs/AY-312-W.pdf [URL accessed Apr 2011].

Nielsen, Robert L., Peter R. Thomison, Gregory A. Brown, Anthony L. Halter, Jason Wells, and Kirby L. Wuethrich. 2002. Delayed Planting Effects on Flowering and Grain Maturation of Dent Corn. Agron. J. 94:549-558.

Schnitkey, Gary and Ryan Batts. 2011. Planting Delays and Switching to Soybeans: A New FAST Spreadsheet. Univ. of Illinois Extension. [online] http://farmdoc.illinois.edu/manage/newsletters/fefo11_08/fefo11_08.html. [URL accessed May 2011].

The INDIANA CROP & WEATHER REPORT (USPS 675-770), (ISSN43-817X) is issued weekly April through November by the USDA, NASS Indiana Field Office, 1435 Win Hentschel Blvd, Suite 110, West Lafayette, IN 47906-4151. For information on subscribing, send request to above address. POSTMASTER: Send address change to the USDA, NASS, Indiana Field Office, 1435 Win Hentschel Blvd, Suite 110, West Lafayette, IN 47906-4151.

WEEKLY NEWS REPORT

INDIANA CROP & WEATHER REPORT
USDA, NASS, INDIANA FIELD OFFICE
1435 WIN HENTSHCEL BLVD, STE 110
WEST LAFAYETTE IN 47906-4151

FIRST-CLASS MAIL
POSTAGE & FEES PAID
USDA
PERMIT NO. G-38